## Claims:

1 (original). A compound of the formula I

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

- 2 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound of Claim 1.
- 3-6 (canceled).
- 7 (original). A method of treating hyperlipidemia comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 8 (original). A method of lowering serum cholesterol concentration comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 9 (original). A method of treating arteriosclerotic symptoms comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 10 (original). A method of treating insulin resistance comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 11 (canceled).
- 12 (original). An intermediate of the formula IV

in which R is acetyl, benzoyl, aryl ( $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ )-alkylaryl or ( $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ )-alkyl. 13 (canceled).